

~~TOP SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

26 January 1953

Memorandum for Mr. Dulles

Subject: Status of Pending NSC Projects

This memo is for your use at the Senior Staff meeting set for Tuesday, 27 January. It covers all the items in the "Status of Projects", in the order of their listing there. I have marked with an asterisk the papers that appear to have great importance or that concern CIA directly.

Papers Circulated to the Council

*1. NSC 137/1 (VOA). In response to Defense's original proposal that VOA activities be curtailed, State has tabled NSC 137/1 suggesting that the question be referred to an ad hoc committee including particularly the President's Telecommunications Advisor (Mr. Haraden Pratt). Mr. Wisner (by Mr. [REDACTED]) has pointed out that curtailment of VOA would hurt our propaganda. O/SI agrees that Soviet jamming capabilities present a grave problem for our military communications, and urges that this subject be gone into as a matter of high priority.

*2. NSC 141 (the [REDACTED] paper on foreign aid). This was circulated on 26 January. It raises basic policy questions of high urgency.

3. NSC 112 Progress Report (Disarmament Position). This was circulated on 26 January. It says that technical studies are in progress and that your special committee has reported.

*4. NSC 104/2 Progress Report (East-West trade). This was circulated on 26 January. It is a very detailed account of developments from 1 July through 1 November, with an Appendix dealing with intelligence support. It makes no recommendations on the basic policy, which is generally considered to provide only very loose guidance.

5. NSC 85 Progress Report (UN Action against Agression). This was circulated on 26 January. The first part of this policy has been substantially carried out by the "Uniting for Peace" resolution passed by the UN in September 1950. How to get more actual troop support is the question.

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

6. NSC 79 (US War Objectives and Conditions for a Peaceful Settlement with the USSR). This project has two parts. The report just tabled by State covers only the war objectives. It has been referred to an ad hoc committee of State, Defense, JCS, and ourselves, to which I have been designated. Apparently State intends that the second phase, on conditions for a peaceful settlement, will await action on the first. State's report is a long essay that raises questions that take a lot of thought.

Papers in Preparation or Abeyance

*7. NSC 118/2 (Policy in the Korean War). This has been hung up since June, chiefly on the embargo-blockade point. In September, it was deferred pending the outcome of the tripartite talks with the British and French on military problems in Southeast Asia. State thinks the next move is up to Defense. Query whether it is now desired to treat this as a separate subject, apart from overall Pacific policy (i.e., by revision of NSC 48/5 or by a wholly new paper).

8. NSC 97/2 (Middle East Oil). A very thorough factual report by PAD on the overall petroleum situation was tabled in December, and on January 8 the Council directed ODM to prepare policy recommendations. The Middle East policy question -- relative cost of ensuring availability of ME oil or of offsetting its loss -- has been held in abeyance pending these recommendations.

*9. NSC 128 (Chinese Nationalists and Formosa). A paper on this has been in preparation in Defense since early July, and I have been informed that it was ready for submission early in January. Query again whether this issue can now be dealt with apart from overall Pacific policy.

10. NSC 97 (Overall Oil Policy). See item 8 supra.

*11. NSC 1140 (New Summary Evaluation). This is the number given to our draft directive approved by President Truman on 19 January. Our recommendation c., for a generalized procedure for "Commander's Estimates", remains pending. (Maybe State's new management can help push this through now!)

12. NSC Action No. 507 (Eligibility of Foreigners to receive Classified Information). This awaits a report by ICIS. A draft Presidential directive on this subject has been held up since July 1951 at the request of the Secretary of Defense, pending some consideration by the NATO Standing Group. The delay by ICIS may relate to the ICIS annoyance with Defense, recently revealed in the Progress Report on NSC 17/4, because of Defense's going ahead and agreeing to NATO security regulations without fully consulting ICIS.

TOP SECRET

13. NSC 131 (Civil Defense Evacuation). Remanded to FCDA for reconsideration in June 1952. FCDA had proposed an extremely limited policy of evacuation.

14. NSC 135 (Basic National Policy). Reports under this are due from all hands, including MAC, by 1 February.

15. NSC 125/2 [REDACTED] This policy paper directed State to report as soon as convenient on what was being done to carry it out.

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cc. DD/T

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Mr. Amory

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mr. Kent

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Mr. [REDACTED]

- 3 -
TOP SECRET